



## Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**File No. 90**

Senate Bill No. 170

*Senate, April 2, 2001*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE HOSPITAL DISCHARGE PROCESS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 The Office of Health Care Access shall conduct a study of the  
2 discharge process of all hospitals in the state and shall determine the  
3 appropriateness of such process and the adequacy of hospital  
4 discharge plans, particularly with respect to persons with psychiatric  
5 disabilities and homeless persons. The Commissioner of Health Care  
6 Access shall submit a report of the office's findings and  
7 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General  
8 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health not  
9 later than February 1, 2002, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
10 general statutes.

**PH** Joint Favorable

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Potential Cost

**Affected Agencies:** Office of Health Care Access, Dempsey Hospital (University of Connecticut Health Center)

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation****State Impact:**

This bill requires the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) to conduct an analysis of the hospital discharge process in Connecticut and submit findings and recommendations by February 1, 2002. Its fiscal impact will vary, depending upon the scope of the study undertaken.

A limited study of this issue might incorporate a review of other states' experiences, input from industry representatives through focus groups, or a review of accreditation standards and how they relate to discharge practices. An analysis of this scope can be performed within the Office's anticipated budgetary resources.

A more in-depth analysis of a random sample taken from the 275,000 annual discharges from Connecticut's hospitals would require the OHCA to retain outside consultant services at a cost of between

\$350,000 - \$400,000. No funding has been included within the Governor's Recommended FY 02 - FY 03 Budget for this purpose.

It is anticipated that Dempsey Hospital at the University of Connecticut Health Center can contribute to either a limited or comprehensive study within its anticipated budgetary resources.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 170

***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE HOSPITAL DISCHARGE  
PROCESS.***

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze special acts.